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Message Text

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70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 HEW-02 OES-03

CEQ-01 EPA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /070 W
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R 081705Z JAN 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 266
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1513

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PASS AGRICULTURE

FOR G E SINDELAR, F&V DIV, FAS; H B FAYANS, SPECIAL PROJECTS DIV, FAS

E.O. 11652C NA
TAGS: EAGR EEC
SUBJECT: RESIDUES ON US GRAPES SHIPPED TO EUROPE

1. WE ARE POUCHING SEPARATELY A COPY OF AN OBSERVATION REPORT SUBMITTED BY US AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE (ARS) ROTTERDAM TO ARS WASHINGTON. THE REPORT TELLS OF ARS ROTTERDAM OFFICIALS HAVING INSPECTED A SHIPMENT OF US GRAPES REFUSED ENTRY INTO W. GERMANY BECAUSE OF VISIBLE FOREIGN MATTER. LABORATORY ANALYSIS REVEALED SULFUR RESIDUES ON THE GRAPES OF UP TO 100 PARTS PER MILLION (PPM). THE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE GERMAN RESIDUE TOLERANCE FOR SULFUR IS 50 PPM, AND FOR VISIBLE FOREIGN MATERIAL THE TOLERANCE IS ZERO. NOT INDICATED IN THE REPORT IS THE OPINION OF THE ARS ROTTERDAM OFFICIAL THAT THE SHIPMENT ORIGINATED IN CALIFORNIA.

2. SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION FROM ARS ROTTERDAM REVEALS THAT AN OFFICIAL OF THAT LABORATORY HAS BEEN TOLD IN CONFIDENCE BY DUTCH
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INSPECTION SERVICE OFFICIAL THAT AT LEAST THREE MORE SUCH

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SHIPMENTS OF GRAPES HAVE ARRIVED IN THE NETHERLANDS SINCE DECEMBER 19, IN SIMILAR OR WORSE CONDITION.
SPECIFICATIONS ON THESE MORE RECENT SHIPMENTS (SHIPPER, CARRIER, RECEIVER) HAVE NOT YET BEEN PROVIDED TO ARS ROTTERDAM ACCORDING TO THE DUTCH INSPECTOR. THE IMMEDIATE RESULT IS THAT HENCEFORTH, UNTIL NETHERLANDS OFFICIALS ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN CORRECTED, ALL GRAPE SHIPMENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE PORT OF ENTRY UNTIL SAMPLES HAVE BEEN ANALYSED FOR CHEMICAL RESIDUES AND FOREIGN MATERIAL IN GENERAL. THE ARS OFFICIAL HAS A STRONG SUSPICION THAT THE DUTCH AUTHORITIES WILL ADVISE THEIR COUNTER-PARTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OF THE ACTION THEY ARE TAKING.

3. IN VIEW OF THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO US GRAPE EXPORTS TO EUROPE THROUGH APPARENT CARELESSNESS BY US SHIPPERS, WE RECOM-MEND THAT FAS/2 TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN SUPPORT OF ARS, URGING THAT SHIPPERS EXERCISE MUCH GREATER CARE IN CLEANING UP FURTHER SHIPMENTS. BREAKIRON, ARS, BELSVILLE CAN BE CONTACTED FOR FURTHER DETAILS.
GREENWALD

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